

1 AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

2 Please amend the specification of the present application as set forth below.
3 Changes to the specification are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) and
4 underlining (for added matter).

5
6 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 8, with the following
7 rewritten paragraph:

8
9 -- The first approach is problematic in that the information from VCs is
10 typically obtained at the fund pledge stage. The distribution can occur years after
11 this date and the VC information is often incorrect. As a result, the distributed
12 securities often do not reach the LP. Another problem with this approach is that,
13 with the passage of years, the LP may have changed its mind as to what to do with
14 the securities. Additionally, the first approach only involves sending a physical
15 certificate to a predetermined destination - usually the LP's home address or broker
16 - and does not provide advance notification which would allow the LP to sell the
17 securities quickly. Because the stock price typically falls 20% or more within
18 hours after a VC distribution takes place, the LP can suffer a significant economic
19 loss.--

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21 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 13, with the
22 following rewritten paragraph:
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1 -- In addition, and in accordance with a feature of the invention, ~~The the~~
2 VC can also provide the facilitator 102 with a letter authorizing delivery of VC
3 101 assets into the custody of a third party (step 215). In this case, the third party
4 will be the TA 104 and the assets transferred will include the shares of restricted
5 stock. With such authorization, the facilitator 102 can deliver the physical shares
6 of stock represented by the certificates into the custody of the TA (step 216). --

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8 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 12, with the
9 following rewritten paragraph:

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11 -- As the TA receives instructions, it can act on them and perform a partial
12 or incremental distribution of the securities in accordance with the instructions.
13 For example, the TA can act on a periodic basis, such as daily, to distribute those
14 securities for which instructions have been received and continue to house the
15 remaining securities in the name of the VC while the TA awaits further delivery
16 instructions. The facilitator can monitor the actions of the TA through reports
17 received, via an online system, by voice communications, or through other
18 communications vehicles (step 219). Actions which are monitored can include the
19 creation of new certificates reflecting deductions of distributed shares and delivery
20 of shares to limited partners according to instructions given. In addition, the
21 facilitator can receive from the TA distributed shares for deposit or shares that
22 remain subsequent to a distribution, as may result ~~to~~-when a facilitator is unable to
23 obtain instruction from an LP. (Step 220). Typically, such shares will remain in the
24 name of the VC in the custody of the TA until the LP participant responds. If there
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1 is no response within a specified period of time, the distribution is generally closed
2 and the shares surrendered back to the VC. When the distribution is closed, no
3 shares remain in the custody of the TA. --
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5 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 5, with the
6 following rewritten paragraph:
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8 -- The VC Distribution System 310 has access to one or more databases
9 302 used to store VC distribution related data and which can also include other
10 information. The VC Distribution System 310 includes appropriate database
11 screens and other program modules to permit users to interact with and gather data
12 from a participant VC 323-335, a participant TA ~~326~~ 327, a participating
13 facilitator ~~327~~ 328, or other entity participating in a VC distribution of restricted
14 securities. Data gathered from various sources can be used to further facilitate a
15 distribution. --
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17 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 15, with the
18 following rewritten paragraph
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20 -- The source data for the contact detail screen can include not only the
21 distribution at issue but also other distributions or activities which are being
22 managed or processed by the facilitator. When a contact is responsible for
23 multiple participants, at least the open items for ~~the~~ each associated participant
24 are indicated in the contact details. In addition, where a single participant is
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1 involved in multiple distributions or other activities for which instructions are
2 required, the various action items for that participant can also be displayed. As a
3 result, when a operator selects a given contact, they can easily determine all
4 information which must be obtained from the contact for all of the associated
5 participants and for each ongoing distribution. Preferably, when a user opens a
6 Call Queue entry, that item is locked to prevent other users from simultaneously
7 attempting to reach a contact or enter instructions from the LP participant for that
8 record set. --